

Today's Topics:

Back to Part 15 (was Re: Unrestricted access (was Re: Part 15))
callsign database????
Magnetic Storms
Need help with BC200-XLT problem
Where do YOU buy parts? (2 msgs)
Wilson HT

Date: 18 Oct 89 19:01:05 GMT

From: cs.utexas.edu!mailrus!sharkey!indetech!pacbell!sactoh0!unify!csusac!mmsac!
david@tut.cis.ohio-state.edu (David L. Kensiski)

Subject: Back to Part 15 (was Re: Unrestricted access (was Re: Part 15))

In article <9886@cadnetix.COM> rusty@cadnetix.COM (Rusty Carruth) writes:

> I was down at Pace (kinda like Price Club, if you know what that is)
> yesterday and saw something which really worried me.
>
> "AT&T Cellular Style Walkie-Talkies"
...
> There was no mention of what freq they used.
>
> There was no mention of how much power they radiated.

Odds are, these things are on 49 MHz, where all the kiddie walkie-talkies seem to have ended up. They probably put out 100 mW or less, and tend not to interfere with much of anything.

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| UUCP: sun!sacto!mmsac!david | INTERNET: mmsac!david@sacto.West.Sun.COM |

Date: 26 Oct 89 16:50:43 GMT

From: rochester!rit!ultb!cep4478@pt.cs.cmu.edu (C.E. Piggott)

Subject: callsign database????

I see that this book is \$9.00, up 80% from last year's.

Thank you, but I will give W5YI \$3.00 for his copy, and interpret it myself. With a LESS complicated part 97, it seems kinda screwy to me to pay \$9.00 for this text when I find I can get better clarification of the rules either on Usenet or on a local repeater.

Chris n2jgw

Date: 26 Oct 89 20:24:39 GMT
From: brian@ucsd.edu (Brian Kantor)
Subject: Magnetic Storms

South Pole Station reports that the only thing they've been able to hear 3-30 MHz is the birdies in the receiver ever since the big flare.

Luckily the satellite links still work just fine.
- brian

Date: 26 Oct 89 15:58:00 GMT
From: primerd!ENI!S57!STEVE\$bloom-beacon.mit.edu
Subject: Need help with BC200-XLT problem

I was wondering if any other BC200-XLT owners have encountered a problem with low-battery shutoff. Finally after 6 months of unsatisfactory battery life (approximately 4 hours depending on audio output) I decided to measure the current drain of the scanner under various conditions (frequency, back light, audio output) AND the low-battery threshold.

To my surprise, what I found was that the NiCads (rated at 1.2v * 6 cells = 7.2v), which using the supplied charger/adaptor topped off at over 8 volts, were entering low battery state at about 7.4 volts. Low battery state causes the low-battery indicator to flash and sets a timer which powers down the scanner after about 11 minutes. Turning the scanner off and on leaves you in low-battery state, but gives the scanner another 11 minutes before it powers down again. I figure I could get another 3 to 4 hours if I didn't mind resetting the scanner every 11 minutes.

My thought is that 7.4v is way too high a threshold for low-battery state. I think that 6.5v (one volt per cell plus safety margin) would be sufficient to give the scanner another 2 to 3 hours of operation. Does anyone else have any thoughts on the matter or any suggestions on how to make this modification?

Thanks in advance,

Steve Meserve N1FZA

Date: 26 Oct 89 18:01:50 GMT
From: rti!sunpix!gb@mcnc.org (Sun Visualization Products)
Subject: Where do YOU buy parts?

Though I have catalogs for all of the following:

- All Electronics
- Amidon Associates
- Circuit Specialists
- DC Electronics
- Digi Key
- Fair Radio
- Jameco
- Newark
- RadioKit
- Star Electronics
- Surplus Sales of Nebraska

I *OFTEN* cannot find the parts I want. These include linear and digital IC's, transistors, hybrids, mixers, etc. It is frustrating to find the perfect part in a data book but not be able to buy it for lack of a source.

Is there some secret to parts acquisition that I have missed? Do some of you know of distributors who are willing to sell to individuals in small quantities? It is frustrating to find the perfect part in a data book but not be able to buy it for lack of a source.

Gary Bishop WA4FUT

Date: 26 Oct 89 21:52:03 GMT
From: swrinde!gem.mps.ohio-state.edu!ginosko!aplcn!stda.jhuapl.edu!mjj@ucsd.edu (Marshall Jose)
Subject: Where do YOU buy parts?

In article <966@holler.UUCP> gbishop@sun.com writes:

>Though I have catalogs for all of the following:

> ...

>I *OFTEN* cannot find the parts I want. These include linear and
>digital IC's, transistors, hybrids, mixers, etc. It is frustrating to
>find the perfect part in a data book but not be able to buy it for
>lack of a source.

>

>Is there some secret to parts acquisition that I have missed? Do some
>of you know of distributors who are willing to sell to individuals in
>small quantities?

I share your frustration -- the present parts marketing strategies will kill off the hobbyist, it seems. Here on the east coast (a.k.a. the edge of the semiconductor universe) it's even worse. One must be aggressive and resourceful.

I have a two-part strategy:

1. Of the parts I need, first find as many low-cost/local/short-leadtime sources as possible, such as Radio Shack, a hamfest, the transistor radio in my junkbox, etc.
2. For the more difficult parts, find any possible alternate sources (who often use strange nomenclature). Access to the IC Master helps.

These parts will probably only be available via mail-order or through a local distributor who's open 9-5 M-F, period. Both will gouge you with the minimum order crap.

Sometimes in engineering the inelegant solution is more quickly and economically realized. Ask yourself if you REALLY need such-and such a device.

Finally, when you've whittled down your list of parts to get, bite the bullet send in you mail-order or visit the distributor on your lunch hour or whatever it takes to get those stupid parts.

Here are two more places from which to request catalogs:

Mouser Electronics: call 800-992-9943 & get on mailing list.
Communication Concepts, Inc.: Lotsa RF semi's, modules, & ferrites,
Ph. 513-426-8600

There's a rag called Nuts'N'Volts which is an advertisement carrier. I picked up a copy at the local ham store. Looks like a good start for the pursuit of weird parts.

Good Luck,
Marshall Jose WA3VPZ
mjj@aplvax.jhuapl.edu || ...mimsy!aplcen!aplvax!mjj

Date: 26 Oct 89 03:08:55 GMT
From: texbell!attctc!mjbtl!raider!root@rutgers.edu (Bob Reineri)
Subject: Wilson HT

I have resurrected my old Wilson Mark IV HT after many years of inactivity, and find the NICAD battery pack is shot. I tried to call Wilson, but they appear to be out of business.

Does anyone out there:

- 1.) Have a battery pack they'd be willing to sell ? or,
- 2.) Know where I could get one ? or,
- 3.) Know what became of Wilson Electronics (based in Las Vegas) ?

Thank you for any information you could provide.

73's

Bob
N4CDO

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End of INFO-HAMS Digest V89 Issue #809
